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SOURCE Szabad Nep.

OUTLINES STRICT MEASURES FOR PRODUCERS' CO-OPS

MINISTER ALSO DISCUSSES CO-OPS' PROGRESS -- Budapest, Szabad Nep, 28 Dec 51

A 2-day conference attended by 100 outstanding workers from 360 producers' cooperatives and machine stations was held at Budapest on 27 December. The conference was called to discuss the progress made by the producers' cooperatives and machine stations and measures for future development.

The conference was addressed by Minister of Agriculture Ferenc Erdei, who stated that the number of producers' cooperatives has increased from 1,520 to 4,652 since 1950. During the same period, cooperative membership rose from 46,000 to 350,000; and the area under cooperative cultivation from 250,000 to 1,500,000 cadastral yokes. Cooperative assets are currently 11 times, total funds 27 times, and working funds 23 times greater than 2 years ago. The income of the members has grown from 17.50 forints in 1949 to 25.24 forints in 1951 per work unit. Most of the profit was distributed in produce this year. The machine stations have added to their equipment considerably.

While in January 1950 the equipment of machine stations consisted of only 3,500 tractors, 450 traction machines (possibly steam, gasoline, or diesel engines stationed at the opposite ends of a field and pulling the plow, by means of a cable, across the tract), 3,900 tractor plows, 4,800 sowing machines, and 1,300 threshers, today 3,500 tractors, over 1,000 traction machines, 8,700 tractor plows (including 2,000 stubble plows), 1,200 tractor-drawn sowing machines (in addition to the horse-drawn machines), 7,600 cultivators, 1,200 harvesters, 6,100 threshing machines, and 50 combines are available.

During the past 2 years, the producers' cooperatives received long-term loans totaling approximately one billion forints. Two peasant delegations visited the USSR to study farming methods, while a delegation of kol-khoz peasants from Carpatho-Ukraine and leading agricultural workers from the USSR visited farms in Hungary. The producers' cooperatives must meet their obligations to the state by fulfilling their delivery quotas and by repaying the loans advanced to them. In a few cases, these obligations have been evaded.

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The cooperatives have neglected stock breeding. Up to now, the state farms helped the cooperatives by sending them studs, but this practice will be continued only where necessary. Many new members, on joining, sold that part of their livestock which was in excess of their personal needs. Hereafter, the livestock of new members should be used to augment the cooperative stock and for general breeding as well. Newcomers who sell their animals injure the welfare of the cooperative and will have to pay 15 percent of the value of the livestock sold.

On many farms the families and womenfolk of the members have not participated in the common work. This practice must be stopped.

The payment of labor according to work units serves discipline. Since there have been complaints in this field, the whole table of work units has been revised and the norms adjusted according to the simplified system used in the USSR.

The Minister of Agriculture proposed that:

1. As reward for exceeding norms, workers of particularly efficient groups should receive one quarter of the grain grown in excess of the plan, and one half, one quarter, or one fifth of root crops.
2. Milkers should receive, in kind, 15 percent of the dairy's excess profit.
3. Absentees during particularly heavy work periods should be fined at the rate of one work unit per day for each day missed.
4. Workers who leave the producers' cooperative for other employment lose the work units already accumulated.
5. The minimum number of obligatory work units should be raised from 30 to 100.

If the cooperatives are to develop rapidly and normally, more women must participate both as workers and leaders. Work brigades should be assigned to a specific area and the brigade leader should be personally responsible for the performance of his group.

The producers' cooperatives should exercise care in electing a president and thus prevent the frequent changes hitherto necessitated through poor choice. A vice-president should also be appointed.

The party and the government have also resolved that the machine stations, tractor drivers and mechanics should share in the work units. The contracts between the farms and the machine stations must be renewed in February 1952.

More women should be employed in the machine stations also, and the stations must see to it that they are properly trained and treated with respect. The attitude formerly taken toward them by some of the men is intolerable.

To improve discipline in the machine stations, work should be more efficiently organized; the brigades should be made permanent; indoctrination is to be stressed; the work must be more closely supervised; and penalties should be imposed where necessary.

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PRESIDENTS PERSONALLY RESPONSIBLE IN PRODUCERS CO-OPS -- Budapest, Szabad Nep,  
11 Nov 51

To improve leadership and increase personal responsibility, the Council of Ministers has issued a decree relative to the tasks and remuneration of functionaries of the producers' cooperatives.

Presidents of producers' cooperatives will have personal responsibility and will be entitled to a bonus if their agricultural and animal-breeding plans are fulfilled. Agronomists, whose task is the application of modern agricultural methods, will receive remuneration similar to the presidents'. Bookkeepers are also entitled to extra payments.

According to the decree, producers' cooperatives which keep more than 30 cattle and over 25 sows are permitted to employ animal breeders. The latter are responsible for the fulfillment of the breeding plans and their pay will be commensurate with the number of animal stock. Brigade leaders and foremen will be paid on the basis of their performance.

The decree provides that in case of nonfulfillment of plans the remuneration of officeholders in producers' cooperatives be reduced.

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